

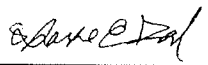
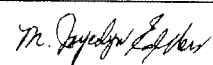
MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO HB 4402

TO: Rep. Rebekah Warren, Chair, Great Lakes and Environment

FROM: Undersigned Practicing Physicians & Scientists

DATED: March 12, 2009

It is our understanding that the Michigan House Committee on Great Lakes and Environment is considering a bill, HB 4402, that would severely restrict the use of FDA approved lindane medication in Michigan. As practicing physicians and scientists, many of us who live and work in Michigan, we vehemently oppose this bill for several reasons. **First**, HB 4402 amounts to a tacit ban on lindane medications in the state of Michigan. The bill requires application of lindane medications in physicians' offices, but as practicing physicians, we can tell you, HB 4402 will have the practical effect of a complete ban. Lindane lotion for the treatment of scabies has an application time of 8-12 hours. Few, if any, Michigan physicians are going to allow patients with scabies to sit in their waiting rooms for 8-12 hour during a treatment application. Few physicians are equipped to handle this on an individual basis, let alone be in a position to deal with a scabies or lice outbreak at a nursing home or school. **Second**, the passage of HB 4402 will have no beneficial effect on the environment. The concern articulated by the supporters of HB 4402 is that lindane medications, once applied, will be washed down the drain. This theoretical concern still exists whether lindane medications are washed down the drains of consumers or the drains of physicians' offices. It is also true of every product. **Third**, we physicians and scientists are greatly concerned that this Committee is considering supplanting the well-studied judgment of the FDA and EPA, which is based on thousands of hours of research and hundreds of pages of reports over the past half-century, with this Committee's judgment based largely on two hour-long Committee hearings. **Finally**, there is no evidence, much less compelling evidence, that lindane is present in Michigan's environment. It is our understanding, that lindane virtually cannot be detected in Michigan's drinking water, surface water, wastewater, fish, soil, sediment and air. For all these reasons, we oppose HB 4402.

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